

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SAA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02  
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AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: NA  
TAGS: LE SY PEPR  
SUBJ: KHADDAM VISITS FRANJIYAH

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM PAID A SURPRISE VISIT TO FORMER PRESIDENT SULAYMAN FRANJIYAH ON AUGUST 8. ACCORDING TO ONE NEWSPAPER, KHADDAM INDICATED THAT THE SYRIAN ARMY WOULD STAY IN LEBANON EVEN AFTER THE ADF'S MANDATE EXPIRED, IF THE ARMY HAD NOT ACCOMPLISHED ITS MISSION. KHADDAM CRITICIZED SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE'S VISIT TO ISRAEL AND EGYPT. HE CONDEMNED CHRISTIANS "CARRYING ARMS AGAINST THE LEGAL AUTHORITIES." BEGIN COMMENT: MANY LEBANESE PROBABLY SEE THE VISIT AS AN UNNECESSARY SLIGHT TO PRESIDENT SARKIS. END COMMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ABDEL HALIM KHADDAM, SYRIAN CHIEF OF STAFF HIKMAT SHIHABI AND SYRIAN GENERAL MOHAMMAD KHOLI PAID A SURPRISE VISIT TO FORMER PRESIDENT SULAYMAN FRANJIYAH IN ZGHARTA ON AUGUST 8. (KHADDAM'S PARTY ARRIVED FROM LATAKIA BY HELICOPTER.)  
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AS REPORTED BY L'ORIENT-LE JOUR, WHEN ASKED BY JOURNALISTS AFTER THE MEETING WHETHER "THE ADF WILL NOT LEAVE LEBANON AFTER THE EXPIRATION OF ITS MANDATE UNLESS IT HAS ACCOMPLISHED ITS MISSION," KHADDAM REPLIED: "THAT'S CORRECT. THE ADF IS LINKED TO A SERIES OF OBJECTIVES WHICH ARE FOR US RELATED TO OUR FRATERNAL COMMITMENT AND ARE THE DETERMINING FACTOR WITH REGARD TO OUR BROTHER LEBANON." (NO OTHER NEWSPAPER REPORTED THIS ASSERTION, HOWEVER.)

3. KHADDAM ALSO SAID THE FOLLOWING, ACCORDING TO L'ORIENT-LE JOUR:

A. ASKED ABOUT THE ENTRY OF THE ARMY IN SOUTH LEBANON, KHADDAM REPLIED: "THE ENTRY OF THE LEBANESE ARMY INTO SOUTH LEBANON IS THE FIRST ATTEMPT TO RE-ESTABLISH LEGAL AUTHORITY ON THAT PART OF THE TERRITORY IN LEBANON. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THIS INITIATIVE MUST BE SUPPORTED BY ALL HONEST AND SINCERE MEN IN AND OUT OF LEBANON . . . ONE CANNOT THEREFORE DISASSOCIATE THE PROVOCATIONS AND AGGRESSIONS IN BEIRUT WITH WHAT IS HAPPENING IN SOUTH LEBANON BECAUSE OF THE INTERVENTION OF ARMED MEN SUPPORTED BY ISRAEL."

B. ASKED ABOUT ARAB SUPPORT FOR THE ADF, KHADDAM REPLIED: ". . . THE ADF ENTERED LEBANON TO ACCOMPLISH A MISSION WHOSE OBJECTIVES ARE WELL DEFINED, I.E. TO AID THE LEGAL AUTHORITY IN LEBANON TO PUT AN END TO THE FIGHTING AND TO HAVE ORDER AND SECURITY RESPECTED. THE RIYADH SUMMIT TOOK PLACE AFTER THE ENTRY OF THE ADF INTO LEBANON. CONSEQUENTLY, THE ADF IS COMMITTED TO THESE OBJECTIVES, BECAUSE THE UNITY, INDEPENDENCE AND THE SOVEREIGNTY OF LEBANON ARE ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS FOR US AND WE ARE DOING OUR BEST TO SUPPORT THEM."

C. ASKED ABOUT SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE'S VISIT TO ISRAEL AND EGYPT, KHADDAM REPLIED: "THE POLICY PURSUED BY THE EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT IS NOT IN THE INTERESTS OF THE ARABS, OF A JUST PEACE, OR OF OUR NATIONAL RIGHTS. AS A CONSEQUENCE, ANYTHING THAT THAT VISIT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BEGETS IS THE FRUIT OF AN ILLEGAL ALLIANCE."

D. ASKED ABOUT THE SYRIAN ATTITUDE TOWARD CHRISTIANS, KHADDAM REPLIED: ". . . SYRIA CONSIDERS THE CHRISTIANS OF LEBANON AS COMPOSING AN INTEGRAL AND ESSENTIAL PART OF OUR (SIC) NATION AND OUR PEOPLE . . . THOSE WHO ARE CARRYING ARMS AGAINST THE LEGAL AUTHORITIES DO NOT MERIT BEING CALLED CHRISTIANS OR LEBANESE. . . SUCH PEOPLE ARE NEITHER CHRISTIANS NOR LEBANESE, BUT PEOPLE WHO WORK IN FAVOR OF ISRAEL . . . THE CHRISTIANS OF LEBANON DO NOT ACCEPT THE ATTEMPTS OF THIS FACTION TO IMPOSE THEIR CONTROL OR DIKTAT."

E. ASKED IF THE COUNTRIES WHO PARTICIPATED AT THE RIYADH AND CAIRO SUMMITS MUST APPROVE ANY EXTENSION OF THE ADF'S MANDATE, KHADDAM REPLIED: "WHEN SYRIA ASSUMED HER NATIONAL, PATRIOTIC AND FRATERNAL RESPONSIBILITIES TOWARDS BROTHER LEBANON, SHE DID NOT ASK FOR THE AUTHORIZATION OF ANYONE. IN CARRYING OUT HER DUTY TOWARDS LEBANON, SYRIA IS NOT WAITING FOR A VOICE WHICH WOULD BE RAISED HERE OR THERE IN OPPOSITION, WHETHER IT IS A VOICE BEING RAISED IN LEBANON OR OUTSIDE OF LEBANON."

4. COMMENT: MANY LEBANESE PROBABLY SEE THE VISIT, WHICH WAS NOT

CLEARED BEFOREHAND WITH THE GOL, AS AN UNNECESSARY SLIGHT TO  
PRESIDENT SARKIS. IN ANY EVENT, THE VISIT ILLUSTRATES DRAMATI-  
CALLY THAT THE SYRIANS WISH TO PORTRAY THEMSELVES AS STRONGLY  
COMMITTED TO THE FRANJIYAHs. END COMMENT.

DECONTROL OCTOBER 30, 1978.  
PARKER

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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